

Executive Update

Milwaukee County Executive Scott Walker's Weekly Newsletter

December 8, 2006

Message From County Executive Walker

My heart goes out to the families of the three men who were killed in the Falk Corporation explosion Wednesday. I would ask that you all keep the families of Curtis J. Lane, Thomas M. Letendre, and Daniel T. Kuster in your thoughts and prayers as they come to grips with this tragedy. I also would ask that you keep in your prayers the 46 employees who were injured in the explosion.

I would like to take this opportunity to offer my heartfelt thanks to the hundreds of brave men and women who responded to this event. It is during these times that I am amazed and deeply grateful for the courage displayed by the firefighters, emergency medical personnel, and law enforcement officers. We should all take this opportunity to say thank you to the next firefighter, police officer, sheriff's deputy, paramedic or EMT you see.

Scott



SLICE OF ICE OPENS TODAY



County Executive Walker with Today's TMJ4 reporter Diane Pathieu this morning at Red Arrow Park

The ice rink at Red Arrow Park will open for the season today.

Opening night festivities take place this afternoon. The event kicks off from 4:00pm to 4:45pm with a skating exhibition by the Milwaukee Figure Skating Club. This will be followed by a ribbon-cutting ceremony by County Executive Scott Walker. The Milwaukee Admirals mascot, Roscoe, will also be on hand and the Brewers' racing sausages will help with the festivities.

Sprecher Brewery is sponsoring the night's activities and they will be offering free skate rentals from 5:00pm to 7:00pm tonight.

The rink will be open Monday to Thursday from 2:00pm to 8:00pm, Friday and Saturday from 11:00am to 11:00pm, and Sunday from noon to 6:00pm.

Skating is free and skate rentals are available for \$5.00 per pair for the rest of the season.

A Health Tip From The Department On Aging

Facts about the flu:

- The flu can be very dangerous for persons 65 years and older.
- The flu can be prevented.
- A flu shot is necessary every year for people in at-risk groups.
- The flu shot is covered by Medicare.
- The flu shot is safe. It can't cause the flu.

The flu is generally a mild disease in healthy children, young adults, and middle-aged people. However, the flu can be life-threatening in older adults and in people of all ages who have chronic illnesses such as diabetes or heart, lung, or kidney disease.

A flu shot can greatly lower your chances of getting the flu. Much of the illness and death caused by the flu can be prevented by a yearly flu shot.

[Click here for links to local immunization clinics, locations, and schedules.](#)

Combined Giving Campaign A Huge Success

The 2006 Milwaukee County Combined Giving Campaign ended on a high note as Milwaukee County employees donated \$163,306 to the campaign. That is \$3,000 more than was raised last year and exceeds the 2006 campaign goal of \$162,000. Thanks to all who donated and for your support of the various fundraising events. A special thanks to Supervisor Elizabeth Coggs-Jones and Bob Dennik, the campaign co-chairs and Dave Sikorski, Judy Pingel and Jeff Aikin, our Loaned Executives.

Walker Chooses New Labor Relations Director

County Executive Walker announced today that he has chosen Greg Gracz as Milwaukee County's new Director of Labor Relations. Mr. Gracz will be appointed as interim director, pending approval by the County Board.

"I am very pleased that Greg Gracz has agreed to take on this new challenge," said Walker. "He brings a wealth of experience in labor relations and will be an asset to the county."

Gracz recently announced his retirement as a Captain with the Milwaukee Fire Department. For the last 20 years, Gracz has been the president of Local 215, the Milwaukee Fire Department union.

Good Neighbor Project Needs Your Help

The Good Neighbor Project from Interfaith helps to create a neighborly community by matching volunteers or paid service providers with older adults (age 60 or older) who need help with seasonal outdoor chores, such as grass cutting, shoveling snow, and raking leaves.

This assistance is often an essential factor in helping an older adult remain living in his or her home.

With the recent snowfall, volunteers are needed to help with this valuable service. Volunteers must be in good general health, able to complete the chores involved and provide their own transportation.

The goal is to match a volunteer with a person living near his or her home. A match can be permanent or short-term.

To volunteer, or if you need this service, contact the Good Neighbor Hot Line at 414-220-8650.